

A New Peperomia (Piperaceae) from Maui

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Peperomia waihoiana sp. nov. (subgen. Sphaerocarpidium, sect. Verticillatae).

Fig.

Diagnosis ^OHolotypi: Plantae parvae molles sunt, caulibus simplicibus vel ex basi pauce ramosis saliente albi-hirtellis pilis 0.3-0.4 mm longis, internodis superis 1-5 mm longis illis inferis 7-12 mm longis, foliis oppositis ex 1-2 nodis superis, petiolis 3-13 mm longis saliente albi-hirtellis, laminis 10-22 mm longis 7-14 mm latis ellipticis in sicco crasse chartaceis supra obscure viridibus glabris infra pallide viridibus omnino sparse hirtellis et in midn^ervo densiore nervis supra sub oculos non caditis sed infra paene evidentis palmatim trinervis et midnervo in medio cum 2 nervulis lateralibus, spica terminali solitaria 15-25 mm longa, pedunculo 5-7 mm longo sparse hirtello plerumque ad basim, rhachidi glabro, bracteis 0.2-0.3 mm diametro subrotundatis peltatis, filamenta 0.3 mm longa, anthera 0.1 mm longa dimidiata, ovario lancei-obovoideo rostrato, stigmatibus 2 apicalibus aequalibus binis, fructibus 0.4 mm longis subglobosis glandulose verrucosis apice subobliquo.

Diagnosis of Holotype: Small, delicate plants; stems 20-25 mm tall, when dried 0.5-0.7 mm in diameter, simple or few branched from the base, white spreading hirtellous, the hairs 0.3-0.4 mm long; upper internodes 1-5 mm long; lower internodes 7-12 mm long; leaves opposite, borne at the 1-2 upper nodes; petioles 3-13 mm long, similarly white spreading hirtellous; blades 10-22 mm long, 7-14 mm wide, elliptic, thick chartaceous when dried, above dark green, glabrous, below pale green, sparsely hirtellous throughout, and more densely so on the midrib, the veins invisible above, but faintly visible below,

palmately trinerved and the midrib with a lateral branch on each side at about the middle; spike terminal, single, 15-25 mm long; peduncle 5-7 mm long, sparsely hirtellous, mostly below; rhachis glabrous; bracts 0.2-0.3 mm in diameter, roundish, peltate; filament 0.3 mm long; anther 0.1 mm long, dimidiate; ovary lance-obovoid, beaked; stigmas 2, apical, equal, paired; fruit 0.4 mm long, subglobose, glandular verrucose, the apex slightly oblique.

Holotypus: Hawaiian Islands, Maui Island, Haleakala, Waihoi Valley, North Waiohonu Trail, 2,400-2,650 ft. alt., under shaded but fairly dry ledges, July-Aug. 1972, Betsy Harrison 197 (BISH).

Discussion: Of this new species the closest relative is P. Cookiana C.DC., var. minutilimba Yuncker, a variety with the stems about 4 cm tall, appressed hirtellous; leaves opposite or whorled; petioles to 3 mm long; blades to 9 mm long and 8 mm wide, ovate to orbicular, hirtellous above, near the base spirally minutely puberulous below; spikes 15 mm long; peduncle 3-4 mm long; fruit 0.75 mm long, subrostrate, oblique, and the stigma subapical. P. waihoiana has the stems 2-2.5 cm tall; leaves opposite; petioles 3-13 mm long; blades 10-22 mm long, 7-14 mm wide, elliptic, glabrous above, hirtellous below; spikes 15-25 mm long; peduncle 5-7 mm long; fruit 0.4 mm long, subglobose, the apex slightly oblique, but the stigmas apical.

The new epithet is formed from the name of the type locality, Waihoi, and -ana, the Latin adjectival suffix, meaning connected with.

Legend

Fig. 1. Peperomia waihoiana St. John, from the holotype. a, habit, X1; b, stem, node, leaf, X 4; c, bract, X 25; d, drupe, X 25.

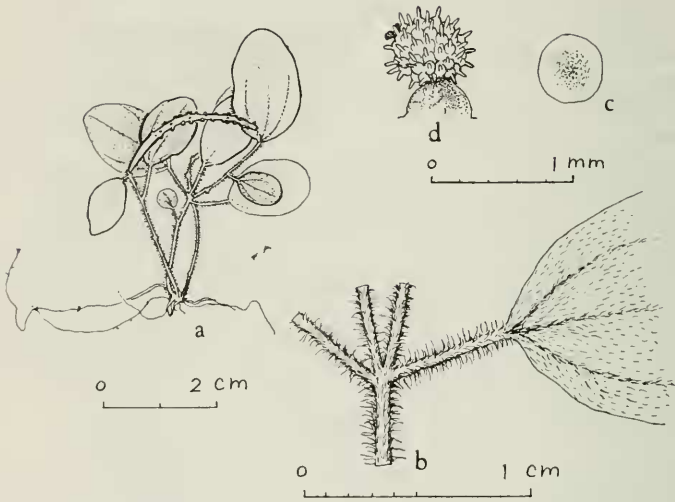


Figure 1